

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: §
 Jeff Kirsner §
 Kenneth W. Pober §
 Robert W. Pike §
 Serial No.: To be Assigned §
 Filed: August 14, 2001 §
 For: Blends Of Esters With Isomerized §
 Olefins And Other Hydrocarbons §
 As Base Oils For Invert Emulsion §
 Oil Muds §

Examiner: To be Assigned

Art Unit: To be Assigned

JC997 U.S. PTO
 09/929465
 08/14/01

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 Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on _
August 14, 2001.

Karen Tripp
 Karen Tripp

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

ATTENTION: Group Director (M.P.E.P., § 1002.02(c))

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER THE ENERGY PROGRAM
(37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c) AND M.P.E.P. § 708.02, VI)

Note: See M.P.E.P. § 708.02, 7th ed.

Applicant hereby petitions to make this application special as being for an invention that materially contributes to

- (a) ☒ the discovery or development of energy resources.
 (b) ☐ the more efficient utilization and conservation of energy.

1. Accompanying material

Accompanying this petition is a statement by

- ☐ applicant
☒ applicant's attorney

explaining how the invention contributes to category (a) or (b) set forth above.

2. Fee

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c), no fee is required for this petition.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 14, 2001

Karen B. Tripp
 Karen B. Tripp, Attorney at Law
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 ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS

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**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF PETITION
TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER THE ENERGY PROGRAM
(37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c) AND M.P.E.P. § 708.02, VI)**

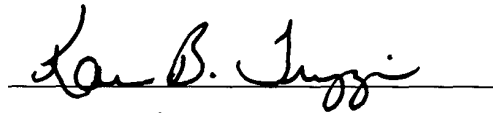
I, the person signing below, state:

1. I am the attorney for Applicants in the above-referenced application;
2. An object of the present invention is to provide a drilling fluid for use in drilling wellbores in hydrocarbon bearing formations where the drilling fluid provides significant benefits in terms of environmental acceptance or regulatory compliance without compromising or reducing drilling fluid rheology or overall drilling fluid performance significantly.
3. Oil or synthetic-based drilling fluids are normally used to drill swelling or sloughing shales, salt, gypsum, anhydrite and other evaporite formations, hydrogen sulfide-containing formations, and hot (greater than about 300 degrees Fahrenheit) holes, and may be used in other holes penetrating a subterranean formation as well.
4. Oil-based drilling fluids comprise a key segment of the drilling fluids industry.
5. Increasingly, oil-based drilling fluids have been subjected to greater environmental restrictions and performance and cost demands.

6. There is consequently an increasing need and industry-wide interest in new low-cost drilling fluids that provide robust rheology while still affording environmental acceptance.
7. The present invention provides blends that comprise the oil base or continuous phase of an invert emulsion for oil-based drilling fluids that are environmentally acceptable and still effective as drilling fluids.
8. In my opinion, the invention of the above-referenced application thereby materially contributes to the development of energy resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 14, 2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen B. Tripp", is written over a horizontal line.

Karen B. Tripp, Attorney at Law

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